



<b>Subject:</b>	Establishment of a Brexit Committee
<b>Date:</b>	18 May 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee’s approval on a number of actions required to establish the new Brexit Committee as previously agreed by the SP&R Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2018 and ratified by the Council on 9 April 2018.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) note the Party allocation of Members to the Committee using the Quota Greatest Remainder methodology as set out at para 3.1</li> <li>(ii) note the order of choice for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson Positions of Responsibility using the D’Hondt methodology as set out at para 3.2</li> <li>(iii) agree the reallocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance as outlined at para 3.3</li> <li>(iv) agree amendments to the Standing Orders to accommodate the new Committee as set out at para 3.4</li> </ul>

	(v) agree the remit for the new Brexit Committee (including the terms of reference and operating protocol) as set out at para 3.5												
<b>3.0</b>	<b>MAIN REPORT</b>												
3.1	<p><b>Allocation of Members to Committee via Quota Greatest Remainder methodology</b></p> <p>The Committee had previously agreed that the Brexit Committee would have 20 Members whose positions would be allocated by applying the Quota Greatest Remainder methodology. This approach would result in the following party representation on the Committee:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Sinn Féin</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DUP</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDLP</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UUP</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PUP</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	Sinn Féin	7	DUP	5	Alliance	3	SDLP	2	UUP	2	PUP	1
Sinn Féin	7												
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Alliance	3												
SDLP	2												
UUP	2												
PUP	1												
3.2	<p><b>Appointment of additional Positions of Responsibility via the D'Hondt methodology</b></p> <p>The Committee has previously agreed that Positions of Responsibility would be appointed using the D'Hondt methodology. This approach results in the following parties having first and second choice for the two positions of responsibility:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Choice 1</td> <td>Sinn Féin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Choice 2</td> <td>DUP</td> </tr> </table> <p>As there remains less than one year of the current council term, it is proposed that the Nominating Officers of Sinn Féin and the DUP nominate a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to fulfil these roles for the remainder of the council term.</p>	Choice 1	Sinn Féin	Choice 2	DUP								
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3.3	<p><b>Reallocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance</b></p> <p>The establishment of an additional standing committee will require a reallocation of the £108,000 Special Responsibility Allowance for the remainder of this term.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provides a proposed reallocation based on the inclusion of an additional Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the Brexit Committee.</p>												
3.4	<p><b>Amendment to Standing Orders</b></p> <p>The Councils Standing Orders are required to be amended with the insertion of a new Standing Order 37(g) which sets out the duties of the new Brexit Committee.</p> <p>Members will note that amendments to Standing Orders requires two full Council meetings before they can come into effect. If the amended Standing Orders are presented to the June Council meeting and ratified then they would need to be confirmed at the July Council meeting, the earliest timeframe for the inaugural meeting of the newly established Brexit Committee would be August 2018.</p>												

3.5	<p><b>Remit of the Brexit Committee</b></p> <p>The original notice of motion stated that ‘the Council immediately establish a formal Brexit Standing Committee, made up of Elected Members, with appropriate officer support, to undertake all necessary work required to bring forward a report with recommendations to explore the impact of Brexit on Belfast and its citizens’.</p> <p>A draft Terms of Reference for the Committee is attached Appendix 2.</p> <p>In terms of an overall function, the draft Terms of Reference propose that the Committee will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK’s leaving the European Union and for making recommendations to Council on such issues (or to the relevant Standing Committee where appropriate).</p> <p><b>Operating Protocol</b></p> <p>The Committee will meet monthly (or as and when required).</p> <p>Agenda items normally going to other Standing Committees which identify Brexit implications will be referred to the Brexit Committee for consideration and decision.</p> <p>In respect of any other matter which may require some consideration in the context of Brexit, the Brexit Committee will act in an advisory capacity, with reports referred to it either directly by the reporting officer or by another Standing Committee.</p>
3.6	<p><b>FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>As the rate has already been set, there is currently no established budget set aside for the Brexit Committee. According to normal operating protocol, any standing committee making recommendations with cost implications outside of established budgets are required to seek approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the necessary funds are available.</p> <p>In terms of officer support, there will be increased costs on an ongoing basis in relation to the support for an additional Standing Committee but it is considered that such costs can be met from within established budgets.</p>
3.7	<p><b>EQUALITY OR GOOD RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Reallocation of Special Responsibility Allowance</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Draft Terms of Reference for Brexit Committee</p>